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RO. D. PRENTICE, & Editors.
PAUL R. SHIPMAN.

SATURDAY, OCT. 17, 1863.

THE 20th army corps, after a very difficult march, was concentrated in McMurry's Cove on the 17th of October. Gen. McCook, in command of the corps, posted Sherman at the foot of Stevens's Gap, Jeff C. Davis at the front of Dog Gap, and Johnson at Pond Spring, in front of Catlett's Gap, in Lookout Mountain. This disposition of his forces was made by Gen. McCook when his instructions were to concentrate his corps between Pond Spring and Gower's, on Chickamauga Creek, which he could not do, for upon his arrival there he found that Thomas's corps had pre-occupied the ground. The next day Gen. Lytle arrived with two brigades from the head of McMurry's Cove, where he had been observing Dougherty's Gap. At night the 20th corps was closed up upon Thomas's 14th corps, with the exception of Post's brigade, from Davis's division, which was on detached duty holding Stevens's Gap, in Lookout Mountain, and did not rejoin the corps during the battles of the subsequent two days. The position of McCook's command can be readily comprehended by consulting any of the maps which have been compiled under direction of the engineers of Rosecrans's army. On the eventful 19th the corps was ordered to move down to Crawfish Springs as soon as Thomas had moved to open the way, which was done, the corps massed there and ordered to await further orders. Gen. McCook, about 10 o'clock, was placed in command of the right and the cavalry, including Negley's division of Thomas's corps, which was then observing the fords over Chickamauga Creek, near Crawfish Spring, and one of his brigades being actually engaged with the enemy. At the same time McCook was ordered to send Johnson's brigade to the widow Glen's house, there to report to Gen. Thomas, and in a short time he was directed to send Davis's division in the same direction. At this juncture Sheridan's division was posted to support Crittenden's right at Gordon's Mills, and Negley was withdrawn from the observation of the fords near Crawfish Spring by Gen. Rosecrans, and ordered to rejoin his corps—Thomas's 14th. The result of these movements was that McCook was left with only Sheridan's division to take care of the right, as the cavalry which had been assigned to his command on that wing had not yet reported to him. About this time Gen. Wood was withdrawn from Gordon's Mills to support General Van Cleve, and McCook, knowing the vital value of the position, ordered Sheridan to the point, anticipating a subsequent order to that effect from Gen. Rosecrans, and arriving just in time to frustrate the rebels, who were attempting to ford the Chickamauga. The mills were held until about three in the afternoon, when McCook's command was further depleted by an order to send two brigades of Sheridan's division to the Widow Glen's, thus leaving Lytle's 1st brigade alone at the mills. The same order directed McCook, in case the right was secure, to take command in person of his troops already engaged. This was obeyed, as in the meantime the cavalry under Gen. R. B. Mitchell had reported, but Gen. McCook did not arrive upon the field until the close of the Saturday's engagement. During the day Johnson's division was employed near the left under Thomas, and we have had the pleasure heretofore of giving a brief history of his splendid achievements. Davis's division, to the right of the Widow Glen's, fought with the utmost gallantry against immensely superior numbers with heroic stubbornness until near sundown, when Sheridan's brigade of Sheridan's division was sent forward to its relief, and drove the rebels from the field and across the Lafayette road, recapturing the 8th Indiana and taking a large number of prisoners from Hood's division of Longstreet's corps. Johnson, it will be remembered, captured several of artillery and several hundred prisoners.

During the night Gen. McCook was ordered to form the right of the new line of battle, leaving his outposts and guard where they then were, until they were driven in, then to fall back on the main body, contesting the ground inch by inch. In accordance with this order, Sheridan's division was strongly posted in the rear and to the right of Glen's house, and Davis, with two small brigades to the left and rear of Sheridan, in reserve, his left resting on Crittenden's right. Johnson's division was still on the extreme left with Thomas. Gen. Rosecrans in person inspected the position of the 20th corps at daylight, and at six o'clock, Col. Wilder, 17th Indiana, commanding a brigade of mixed infantry, reported to Gen. McCook, and was posted on the right of Sheridan. At seven o'clock Negley, having been ordered to the support of Thomas on the left, McCook was directed to fill the gap, if practicable, left vacant by such removal. Rising to the position with Gen. Sheridan, they found it already occupied by Gen. Wood's division, who stated that his orders were to close upon Gen. Brannan on his left. One of Sheridan's brigades was brought forward to fill up the space between Wood and Wilder, as a portion of the barricades on Wood's right was unoccupied. At this time Davis's division, by order of Gen. Rosecrans, was marching towards the vacant barricade, when McCook ordered him to place one brigade within them, and to hold the other in reserve. At ten minutes past 10 o'clock McCook was directed to make immediate disposition to withdraw the right, so as to spare as much force as possible to reinforce Thomas, who was heavily pressed. The words of this order were: "The left must be held at all hazards, even if the right is withdrawn wholly back to the present left." McCook had barely time to give the necessary instructions to carry out this order, when he received another, dated at half past 10 o'clock, directing him to send two of Sheridan's brigades with all possible despatch to the support of Thomas, and to let the 21st brigade follow as soon as the lines could be drawn in sufficiently to prevent without exhausting the men, and Gen. McCook was ordered to report in person to Rosecrans's headquarters in the field as soon as he had given instructions in reference to Sheridan's movements. In execution of this order Lytle and Walworth's brigades were detached from the extreme right, and started on the double quick. At the same moment Wood's division left its position on the left of Davis, marching by the left flank, and caused a wide gap in the line of battle, which Davis attempted to fill, but suddenly the enemy advanced in overwhelming numbers on this weakened portion of our line. The enemy's line extended from beyond Brannan's right far to the right of the Widow Glen's and in front of the carefully selected position which had been abandoned by Sheridan's two brigades. To resist this Buffalo Courier, a leading organ of the New York Democracy, pronounces "sound Democratic doctrine." It is the true doctrine, and we believe it is the doctrine of an overwhelming majority of the loyal people of the country, as we also believe they will show in the national election of next year if the issue is but squarely and clearly presented.

We suppose that the rebels, in their present scarcity of provisions, are endeavoring to get crowns and quilts for food. They are certainly crowning and quailing.

The army of Denmark has been placed on a war footing. Why, we don't exactly know, unless there is "something rotten in Denmark."

A sister of Stonewall Jackson says her brother voted against secession. We must however, judge him by his acts.

ROBERT L. MAITLAND & CO.,
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AND BANKERS,
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No. 403 Main street.

6th

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